**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO CREATE THE “SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY COURT STUDY COMMITTEE” TO REVIEW STATE FAMILY COURT POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES REGARDING TEMPORARY HEARINGS, THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM, MEDIATION REQUIREMENTS, CHILD SUPPORT, ALIMONY, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAWS RELATING TO SUCH POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. (A) There is created the “South Carolina Family Court Study Committee” to review family court policies, practices, and procedures regarding temporary hearings, the guardian ad litem program, mediation requirements, child support, alimony, and other issues relating to the family court system, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning proposed changes to the laws relating to such policies, practices, and procedures. The study committee shall review information and testimony provided by, but not limited to, family court judges, the South Carolina Bar, members of the court administration, and members of the public.

(B) The study committee shall be composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chairman. Vacancies in the study committee’s membership must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of original appointment.

(C) The Chairmen of the Senate and House of Representatives Judiciary Committees shall provide appropriate staffing for the study committee.

(D) The study committee shall make a report of its recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2018, at which time the study committee must be dissolved.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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